

House Republican Press Release

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REP. LABRIOLA TESTIFIES IN FAVOR OF ETHICS REFORM LEGISLATION



On Wednesday, February 2, State Representative David Labriola, R-Naugatuck, testified before the Legislature's Government, Administration and Elections (GAE) Committee in favor of a comprehensive package of ethics reform legislation proposed by Governor M. Jodi Rell.

"The people of Connecticut deserve a government that is free from undue influence of special interests and which places zero tolerance for ethics violations," said Rep. Labriola. "These proposals will help restore public confidence in our government and in the election process."

The package would allow for stripping pensions from public officials who are guilty of serious corrupt practices such as felonies. It would also provide more resources and staffing for the state Ethics Commission.

Rep. Labriola stated his opposition to proposals for public financing of election campaigns that have been proposed for the current legislative session. He noted that using a voluntary check-off system on state income tax forms would not cover the cost of campaign financing. Also, a recent study of two states that have publicly funded campaign systems indicate no increase in public confidence of the electoral process or competition against incumbents, said Rep. Labriola.

"Public financing would result in excessive taxation and doesn't work," said Rep. Labriola.

Rep. Labriola noted there is common ground between Gov. Rell's proposal and other proposals by legislative leaders. He expressed support for banning AD books at political fundraisers, prohibiting lobbyists from giving gifts to public officials for "major life events," and requiring the registration of lobbyists at the municipal level. Finally, Rep. Labriola said he backs a proposal by Jeff Garfield, who serves as executive director of the state's elections enforcement commission that would establish a working group on ethics reform comprised of staff from the Governor's office, legislative leadership and leaders from both political parties serving on the GAE committee.

“We can enact real and sweeping reform of our system by working in a bipartisan and cooperative way,” said Rep. Labriola.